



Alternate Channel

The newsletter for and about the members of the
LOUDOUN COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SYSTEM

NOVEMBER 2002



Master Technician Michael O'Brien rings the signal 5-5-5 for the September 11th Remembrance Ceremony at the North Sterling Safety Center

Photograph by Bill Mason

See Story on Page 2

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is a monthly publication for members, families and supporters of the Loudoun County Fire-Rescue system produced by the Loudoun County Department of Fire-Rescue Services.

Printed by The Printery.

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Alternate Channel

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16600 Courage Court
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Deadline Submission

Date:

Submissions for the Alternate Channel issues are due by the first business day of the previous month.

Example:

May 1st for June Issue

August 1st for July Issue

Company Reporters:

- Co. 1 Patty Murphy-Csizmadia
- Co. 2 Robin Dryden
- Co. 3
- Co. 4 Betty Dodge/Cyndi Vest
- Co. 5 Jim Reed
- Co. 6 Kay Parker
- Co. 7 Jeannie Cooper
- Co. 8 William D. Schwartz
- Co. 9 Sara Chamblin Case
- Co.10 Linda Hobbie
- Co.11 David Short
- Co.12 Greg Dailey
- Co.13 Amy Harper
- Co.14 Sue Johnson
- Co.15 Wilma Grant
- Co.16 Jim Dunagin
- Co.17 Rodney Krone, Jr.

September 11th Remembrance Ceremonies

By David Short

As the nation reflected upon the events of September 11th, 2001, the fire service took this time to focus on the bravery and loss of the fire fighters, EMS workers and police officials who died at the World Trade Center in New York City. Many of the fire and rescue companies in Loudoun County honored the memory of these people by conducting a ceremony as suggested by the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

This ceremony was coordinated to occur at the exact moment the World Trade Center events occurred and was marked by the lowering and raising of the American flag and two series of bell chimes*, one for each of the towers whose collapse took so many lives.

Fire and Rescue personnel in the Sterling area gathered at the North Sterling Safety Center to perform this ceremony. Career fire fighters from Station 11 and 18 along with volunteers from the Sterling Volunteer Fire Department and Sterling Volunteer Rescue Squad came together in unity to form an honor guard that lowered the flag and toned the bell.

The bell used for this occasion was the original bell from Sterling's first fire engine in 1967. The bell was dug out of the old equipment storeroom and cleaned up for this occasion. Special thanks go out to Captain Kevin Wright who organized this effort.

After the ceremony, everyone gathered in Patton Hall for light refreshments. Between 75 and 100 people attended the ceremony, including member's spouses, children and general members of the public.

Tolling of the Bell History

Long before the Internet was invented, or telephones and radios were used across our great nation, fire departments used the telegraph to communicate - using special codes to receive fire alarms from those once-familiar red fire alarm boxes which stood on practically every street corner of America.

When a firefighter was killed - or in the language of the military and public safety - fell - in the line of duty, the fire alarm office would tap out a special signal. This would be tapped out as five measured dashes - then a pause - then five measured dashes - then a pause - then five more measured dashes.

This came to be called the Tolling of the Bell and was broadcast over the telegraph fire alarm circuits to all station houses in the vicinity. Heard outside on the streets - with the fire department's windows open, the resonating echo was similar to that of fire stations of old where fire alarm gongs sounded the locations of thousands of emergencies throughout the history of our growing country.

This was done for the purpose of notification, and as a sign of honor and respect for all firefighters who had made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their communities. Such symbolism has been a time-honored fire service tradition and is repeated at each service of a fallen firefighter.

(data collected from the International Association of Fire Chief's Web Site.)

New Deliveries – Round Hill Brush 4

Article and Photo by
Mike Sanders (Co. 6)

Information provided by
Chief Jim Cunningham (Co. 4)

In the first week of August of 2002, the Round Hill Volunteer Fire Department placed into service their new Brush 4, a 2002 Ford F550 that was completed by Elite Fire and Safety, located in Naples, Florida.

The brush package was built upon a flat bed section behind the Ford cab. This feature has proven to be popular with other Loudoun County stations in the western end of the county. Brush 4 has a 150-gpm pump and carries 300 gallons of water as well as 10 gallons of foam.

There are two large booster reels located to the rear of Brush 4 that carry 200 feet of one-inch hose. In addition, there is 200 feet of 1 ½ inch cross lay and 300 feet of supply line in baskets. Within the large compartment directly behind the Ford cab are common brush fire equipment such as shovels and rakes as well as a stokes basket. Mounted on the front of Brush 4 is a 12,000-pound winch.

The new Brush 4 replaces an older International brush truck that will be auctioned off to the highest bidder. My thanks to Chief Cunningham for the information on Brush 4 and making arrangements for photos.



NEED VOLUNTEER ARTICLES & PHOTOGRAPHS

**Send to Frankie at Fire & Rescue Services
or
E-Mail Articles to: fsutherl@loudoun.gov**

DECEMBER 2002

Regularly Scheduled Monthly Meetings of the Loudoun County Fire & Rescue System

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Companies 1,3,5,6,11,16	3 Fire-Rescue Commission	4 Companies 13 & 17	5 Company 15	6	7
8 Company 14	9 Companies 2,7,8,9,12 BLS Committee	10 Rescue Chiefs	11 Company 10 Retention & Recruitment Committee	12	13	14
15	16 Company 1 ALS Committee	17 EMS Council	18 Fire Council	19	20	21
22	23 Companies 4 & 8	24	25 Merry Christmas!	26	27	28
29	30	31				

FIRE & RESCUE SCHEDULED TRAINING

AHA CPR-Healthcare Provider
Class #7-December 8, 2002



A BIG THANK YOU
for the articles!
Please keep the articles
& photos coming!

**Please Send Articles
and Photographs to
Frankie at Fire &
Rescue Services
or
E-MAIL ARTICLES TO:
fsutherl@loudoun.gov**

Submission Deadline
1st week of month
prior to
issue month

National Crash Analysis Center and Federal Outdoor Impact Laboratory

Story and Photographs
By David Short

On August 23rd, members of the Sterling Volunteer Fire Department and Sterling Volunteer Rescue Squad traveled to Langley, Virginia to the National Crash Analysis Center and Federal Outdoor Impact Laboratory. This center crash tests automobiles into new designs of outdoor structures such as guard rails, sign posts or mail boxes. Occasionally, they run cars into each other for testing, as well.

What drew the Sterling squads to this place was the chance to practice extrication techniques on vehicles that were of current vintage and that had suffered crash damage. Most of our training opportunities in the past have been with very old cars that are not commonly on the roads today and ones that have been discarded rather than wrecked. By working with these newer cars, rescuers gained first hand experience in safely extricating on vehicles with airbags and seat belt pretensioners.

One of the vehicles that were practiced on was a late model Ford Taurus. This vehicle had struck a pole at approximately 60 miles per hour. The damage to the front end was extensive and the intrusion into the passenger compartment was extensive. The extrication team used this opportunity to practice a dash roll. In addition to the standard ram placement on both the passenger and driver side doorsills, the team also used the



Fire Fighter Todd Clist uses the Combi-Tool to make a cut on the “C” post.



Captain Andrea Walter and Fire Fighter Steve Gingras take a moment to relax and admire some of their work.

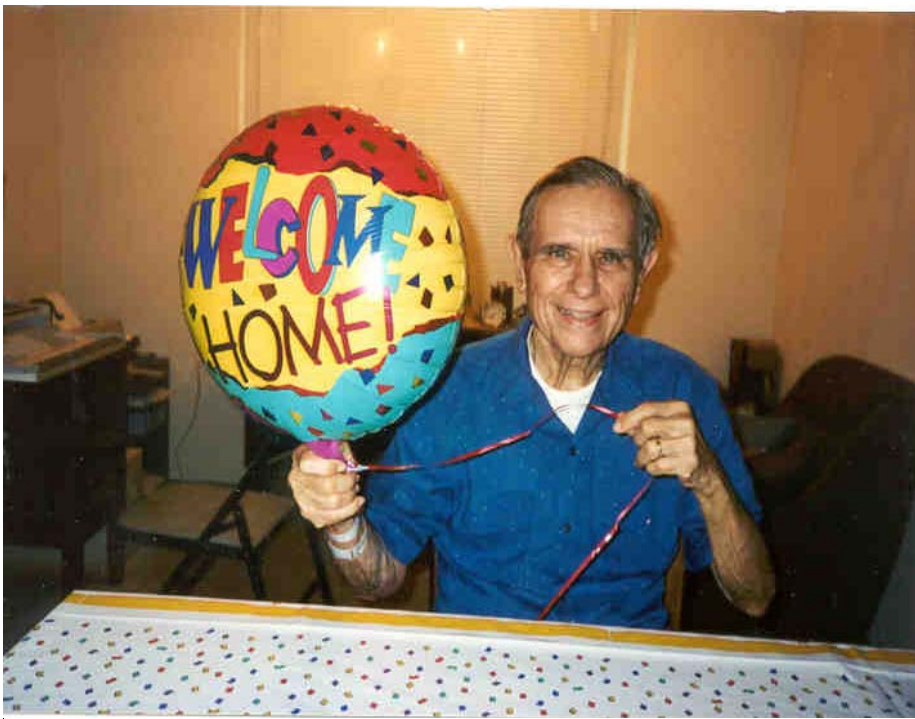
large spreaders and cribbing to spread the center portion of the dash. This was accomplished by placing cribbing on the floor by the hand brake and on the center of the dash in order to distribute the force of the hydraulic spreading tool. The end result was a well and truly splayed dash.

All of the equipment used came from Squad 15 and Tech 25. Both of these units carry self sufficient hydraulic extrication equipment as well as saws, hand tools and plenty of cribbing.

The team felt validated at the end of the day when the employees of the crash test center – which crash cars as their job – commented on how badly we damaged the cars with our equipment. There is nothing that makes you as proud as a job well done.



Rescuers use the portable electric Hurst pump from TECH 25 to put 2 tolls in service. Fire Fighter Butler, Gingras and Sagstetter pictured.



Dear Loudoun Rescue Squad Members,

I appreciate the assistance you gave me when I was in an auto accident on August 14th of this year. I was in very serious condition. I am grateful for your rapid response to my emergency. As you can see from the picture below, I am now back home.

David F. Eliezer

Loudoun County Fire & Rescue Commission

**Doug Rambo
Allie Love
Mickey Buchanan
Fred Muller
Joe Habib
Ian Buchanan**

**Bob Griffin, Chief,
Loudoun County
Department of
Fire & Rescue Services**

**Jim Burton,
Board of Supervisor**

**Donald A. Sabella, M.D.,
Medical Director**

An Old Firefighter Hangs Up His Helmet

By Karen McKay

“He is the ultimate volunteer,” says Bob Dube’ of Philomont Fire Chief Stanley Lickey. Dube’ was the first Fire Marshall, first Fire Director and later the first Director, Fire & Rescue Services, in Loudoun County. “His primary thought and concern were always for his community—his people and his volunteers of Engine Company 8.”



Chief Stanley Lickey, at 31 years one of the longest, continuously-serving fire chiefs anywhere, announced his immediate retirement this month.

Lickey was one of the original commissioners and a member of the Board of Directors on the Fire Council, later the Fire Commission. The group had responsibility for establishing policy, procedures, standards for equipment, the direction of the volunteer system.

Back then, says Dube, there were separate Fire and Rescue Councils, and they were always at each other’s throats. “Stanley brought peace between them and was instrumental in creating a unified Fire & Rescue Council,” Dube recalls. “Even though Philomont

doesn’t have a rescue squad, “Stanley felt they should sit down at the same table. He always stayed calm and rational.” While Chief 8 looked out for his people, “he made a 100-percent contribution to the whole county. He never played politics. Always a straight shooter.”

Ray Muth, former Fire Chief of Ashburn, also goes way back with Lickey, even though they were on opposite ends of the county. Before there was a county training center, the departments worked together to organize their own training. “Stanley’s been there ever since I can remember,” reminisces Muth. “He was a fixture at all the fire meetings. Very outspoken. Stanley’d let you know if something wasn’t right. You never had to guess where you stood with him. And he was always looking out for people, no matter what it was—new equipment or donuts.” Despite some accusing the old Chief of being resistant to change, Muth says that Lickey “kept up with the times and Company 8 always had good equipment despite money problems in the west.”

“Philomont and the fire service in Loudoun County are losing a whole lot with Stanley’s retirement,” laments former Middleburg Fire Chief Snooks Swain. Swain, who has served several times as Chief, has been an operational member of Company 3 for more than 50 years. Philomont and Middleburg being mutually supportive volunteer fire companies, nobody has had more experience working with Stanley Lickey except Firefighter Truman Hawes, the only surviving original member of Company 8 still operational.

Hawes was an 11-year-veteran when Stanley Lickey, a North Fork farm hand came over to Philomont in response to the fire siren going off repeatedly for a big fire and signed up on the spot. “Stanley is going to be awfully hard to replace,” Truman worries. “He is re-

spected by not just members of this company, but by the whole county Fire & Rescue Service. He knows what he is doing and he knows how to direct a fire.”

Fire Chief Buzzy Carter of Company 7 in Aldie, a 41-year veteran, hates to “see [Chief 8] step down. He’s always there when you need him. He’s got street smarts and common sense, and we’re going to lose that.” Carter was always happy to see Philomont arrive on a scene. Aldie and Philomont also border one another. “Good people to work with on a fire because Stanley looks after them. He takes care of his company. You knew when he showed up on the scene, you’d get his best. He doesn’t make snap decisions, he studies the situation, evaluates, takes time to make the right decision.”

Round Hill Co. 4 is another mutual support fire department. Dickie Costello, Chief 4 for 22 years, is not the only old fire fighter to speak of Stanley Lickey as hard headed, but “that’s not all bad.” The younger generation needs to learn from the old, Costello says, adding that “we need to look up at Lickey, and respect and appreciate him not just for what he’s done for Philomont, but for the whole county. He deserves a lot of praise. He’s always been there.”

“He’s going to be missed,” Buddy Colby, Chief for ten years of neighboring Purcellville’s volunteer fire department, says emphatically. “Stanley put together a core group of good firefighters, and they worked well on the fire ground.” Lickey, says Colby, “was one of the good old boys. Easy to work with, always understood your needs.” Yes, Chief 8 was resistant to change—“he wanted to see it proven before it was implemented.” Lickey’s “guiding philosophy was put water on the fire, and the dad-gummed thing will go out.”

Says Colby, “we’ll be talking about Stanley Lickey for years...”

The National Fire Academy Accepting Applications

The National Fire Academy application period for second semester classes (April 1, 2003 through September 30, 2003) will be from November 1, 2002 to December 31, 2002.

Schedules of class dates and descriptions can be found at www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa. Everyone meeting the admissions requirements is eligible to attend. Do not miss out on a rewarding and memorable training opportunity! Should you need assistance in documenting or completing your application, please contact me at kstiles@loudoun.gov.

Submitted By:
Lt. Kevin Stiles, LCFR

Thanks to 911 Service

On Sept. 20, my 19-year-old daughter was driving alone to Scranton, Pa. She became ill, scared and confused. She called her sister on a cell phone to say she couldn't drive any farther. She was hyperventilating and couldn't say where she was, only that she was on I-80 not far from the turn onto I-81 to Wilkes Barre. Her sister called Loudoun's 911.

The man who took the call contacted Pennsylvania's emergency number and arranged for an ambulance to locate and rescue my daughter. She was transported to the nearest emergency room and cared for in a loving manner.

I don't know the name of the man who was on duty that day, but to me, he and his counterparts in Pennsylvania are angels. When I picked up my daughter from the emergency room at Evangelical Hospital in Lewisburg, Pa. later that evening, she was still ill but no longer scared.

I want to thank the gentlemen and women at 911 who understood my fears, met my daughter's needs, and was such a source of comfort to family members as we worried about her condition.

Jane Piercy, Lovettsville

Previously published in Loudoun Times Mirror on October 9th, 2002 as Letter to Editor; Reprinted with permission from Jane Piercy.

The dispatchers on duty were: Amy Snowden, Brian Kennedy, Janet Maurer, and Steve Earley. Congratulations for a job well done!

Advise New Members How to Obtain Fire-Rescue Photo ID Cards

The only responsibility of the volunteer is to have their photograph taken by the Communications Division staff. Call the Communication's Center at 703-777-0637 prior to coming to the center to ensure the dispatchers are not too busy. You will not receive your card at that time. The ID cards will be processed and sent to your station.